THE COLUMBIAN MIRROR
AND
ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE.

Four Dollars per Ann.] THURSDAY, MAY 17, 1798. [Vol. VI.--No. 796.

The Columbian Mirror
AND
ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE.

MEETING THIS DAY.

The inhabitants of the town of Alexandria are requested to assemble at the court house on Thursday next, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon in order to take under their consideration certain propositions, which will then be offered for entering into a "military association," for the protection of the town against foreign invasion or piratical depredations.

At a time when a mere difference of political opinion is found to have been misconstrued into a spirit of dissension and opposition to the general government;—when even domestic jealousies appear to invade the minds of many towards others of contrary sentiments; and especially when neither the long established rules of nations, nor the rights of neutrality afford any security against foreign invasion, it is presumed that a plan of the nature above mentioned, will at once receive the most united and energetic support. It is unnecessary to comment upon the imperfection of the present militia system of the state of Virginia, and the defenceless condition of our port is too obvious to escape the observation of any individual of common capacity. An association then like the one proposed, while it will furnish a prompt and efficient resource in the hour of danger, will become the TOUCHSTONE of real patriotism when the independence of our country is assailed.

Alexandria, May 14th 1798.

FROM THE TIMES.

Messrs. Thomas and Westcott,

Since I saw your paper of this date, I have had a conference with those gentlemen whose certificates are subjoined. My impatience to reply to the united *testimony of the committee hastens me to offer for publication the following observations, and to request you to exhibit the declarations of Messrs. Mason, Minor, and Darne, to prove that these gentlemen were under the same impressions that I was myself.—How many others, who were at the meeting, would make the same declaration that these gentlemen have, I cannot determine; these are all I have seen to-day, and are sufficient for my satisfaction. Let us see, after a disclosure of a prominent feature in the progress of this transaction, whether we could reasonably have expected the result as stated by the committee. It was with unanimous consent that Col. Broadwater took the chair. The resolutions that each gentleman had prepared were then read, and before any question was put by the chair, Colonel Payne proposed that the several resolutions which had been read should be committed to a select number of gentlemen to report what should be agreed upon after examining each. This was certainly a wise proposition, and well adapted to conciliate, but was opposed by many, and in a particular manner by Mr. Radcliffe, who declared he was satisfied with Doctor Stuart's, as did several others. Some gentlemen approved of Mr. Herbert's, but none or very few, shewed an inclination to pursue Colonel Payne's idea—many declared it would consume too much time; and finally all concurred that a vote should be taken on the relative merits of Dr. Stuart's and mine. A division of the people had took place, (which was the only one in the course of the evening) two-thirds of the whole number preferred Dr. Stuart's. Then it was that many of the people upon both sides of the question, dispersed about the green, presuming, I apprehend, as I did myself, that nothing more was to be done, but to appoint a committee to transmit the resolutions that had been adopted, to our representative in congress.*

Now I demand under these circumstances whether these gentlemen who remained about the chair had a right to modify the vote which had been given—To my mind the conclusion is obvious, that having done so, it was an assumption of power, and goes materially to vitiate the whole proceedings. I wish the gentlemen who composed the committee had not expressed their reluctance at publishing what they *call my* misstatement of facts. *I should have thought them much more consistent, had they exposed my conduct with asperity, as indeed it would deserve, if it exhibited evidence of a want of attachment to my native country—Wherefore is it that these gentlemen presume to make insinuations like these? when and by what means have* they * *become* exclusive patriots? *Is it because I think and act independently of them, that I must be disaffected to America, and would receive the fraternal embrace of a foreign country? Does it prove error to think differently upon political topics from those gentlemen? If it does, I have sinned, and, unless they experience a change, shall continue sinning.*

R. WEST.

* Col. Payne has some more title to be denominated a patriot. He fought many years for the independence of America.

I certify that I was at the meeting held at Earp's store on the 7th inst. and after a chairman was appointed, and had taken his seat, Messrs. West, Stuart, and Herbert, read certain resolutions which each of them had previously prepared; after this, a good deal of desultory conversation took place among the members of the meeting; and at length it was agreed to put the following question: "Shall the resolutions offered by Dr. Stuart, or those by Major West, be adopted as the sense of this meeting." Dr. Stuart's were preferred, perhaps by about two thirds of the meeting (which was a very small one).—Supposing that the business, as to the resolutions which were to be adopted, was finally decided, I left the croud (as did many others) and went at a small distance, where I was conversing with one or more persons, until the people had dispersed—Whether any other vote was taken, after I retired, respecting the resolutions, I know not; I heard of none. After the people had dispersed, I was informed that Messrs. Stuart, Lee, Payne, Little and Herbert, were appointed, and had retired to prepare an address to be transmitted with the resolutions to our representative—some time after this, upon asking major West if he would ride, we were requested by some person present, to wait a while, that the gentlemen who had retired, would return in a little time, to report their proceedings to the meeting. We accordingly waited, and did not leave the ground until near sunset, but neither of these gentlemen, to the best of my knowledge, returned to the place where the people were convened, except Messrs. Stuart and Payne. No report was made of their proceedings, nor did I see or hear any more of them.

THOMPSON MASON.

Fairfax County, May 11, '98.

N. B. Mr. Richard B. Lee also brought with him some resolutions, which he had prepared, which I heard read before a chairman was appointed; but I do not recollect that they were read afterwards.

WE the subscribers certify, that we were at the meeting at Earp's Store the 7th inst. and that certain resolutions were offered by Messrs. Stuart, Herbert and West, and after some conversation upon their respective merits, a question was put, whether Doctor Stuart's or Mr. West's should be adopted as the sense of the meeting—Doctor Stuart's were preferred, and we had no idea that any other than those would be forwarded, and they precisely as they were read—We never saw or heard of any vote upon any other proposition.

GEORGE MINOR,
THOMAS DARNE.

Fairfax County, May 11, '98.

LETTER FROM OUR ENVOYS AT PARIS,

To the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the French Republic.

(Continued from the extra. paper of yesterday.)

It appears then on examining this objection to the treaty between the United States and Britain, that it has not added to the catalogue of contraband, a single article; that it has ceded no privilege, has granted no right, and that it has not changed in the most minute circumstance the pre-existing situation of the United Stars in relation either to France or to Britain. Notwithstanding these truths the government of the United States has hastened to assure its former friend that, if the stipulations between them be found oppressive in practice, it is ready to offer up these stipulations a willing sacrifice at the shrine of friendship.

In vain will you search in this procedure for "a known and evident sacrifice on the part of the United States, of their connections with this republic, and of the most essential and least contested prerogatives of neutrality." In vain will you search for evidence of their "having given to England, to the detriment of their first allies, the most striking mark of an unbounded condescension, by abandoning the limits given to contraband by the law of nations, by their treaties with all other nations, and even those of England with the greater part of the maritime powers."

The United States feel these reproaches as conscious innocence feels the imputation of guilt.

Secondly. It is also alledged, that "the United States have consented to extend the denomination of contraband even to provisions. Instead of pointing out particularly, as all treaties do, the cases of the effective blockade of a place, as alone forming an exception to the freedom of this article, they have tacitly acknowledged the pretensions raised by England to create blockades in our colonies, and even in France, by the force of a bare proclamation."

The objections to this article shall be considered according to its operations.

The objectionable words are, "and whereas the difficulty of agreeing on the precise cases in which alone provisions and other articles not generally contraband may be regarded as such, renders it expedient to provide against the inconveniences and misunderstandings which might thence arise. It is further agreed, that whenever any such article to becoming contraband according to the existing laws of nations, shall for that reason be seized, the same shall not be confiscated; but the owners thereof shall be speedily and completely indemnified; and the captors, or in their default, the government under whose authority they act, shall pay to the masters or owners of such vessels the full value of all such articles, with a reasonable mercantile profit thereon, together with the freight and also the demurrage incident to such detention."

The admissions contained in this case are,

First, That provisions are not generally contraband, and that

Secondly. They are sometimes contraband.

An effort was made to establish the precise case, in which alone they should be subject to seizure; but America would only consent to consider them as contraband in the case of an effective blockade, siege, or invasion of a place, while on the part of England this strict interpretation of the rule was not admitted; but it was contended that provisions became contraband when there were reasonable hopes of reducing the enemy by famine. In this opposition of sentiment to what have the United States consented? "To extend the denomination of contraband even to provisions," "to acknowledge tacitly the pretentions raised by England to create blockades in your colonies, and even in France by the force of a bare proclamation?"—"In a word to have commerce only with England?" Reconsider the words themselves and it will require no comment how inapplicable to them are those assertions. The cause complained of, having stated the admission of the difficulty already mentioned, proceeds to say "It is further agreed that whenever any such articles, so becoming contraband according to the law of nations, shall for that reason be seized, the same shall not be confiscated, but the owners thereof shall be speedily and completely indemnified."

It is too clear to admit of contestation that this clause does not declare provisions to be contraband, or admit of their seizure in any case than when "according to the existing law of nations they should become contraband:" in such case the right to seize them is not given by this article, but it is admitted by France, and by all the world to exist independent of treaty. In such case they would have been seized had this stipulation never been entered into: and would have been confiscated also. The only alteration, which is by the letter of the clause produced in the law of nations, is to exempt from confiscation goods which under that law would have been subject to it.

But it has been suspected to have an object and an operation in practice different from its letter. It has been suspected to cover a design to admit substantially certain principles with respect to blockades, which in theory are denied.

Incapable of duplicity, America, with the pride of conscious integrity, repels this insinuation, and courts an investigation of the facts on which it is founded.

The government of the United States and that of Britain, having construed the law of nations differently in this respect, each would have acted upon its own opinion of that law; the privateers of England, would have seized as contraband any goods deemed such in their courts of admiralty; and the government of the United States would have reclaimed such goods and would have supported the demand in such manner as its own judgement dictated. This procedure is not changed. The right to make such reclamations has not been relinquished, nor has the legality of the same in any other case than that of an attempt to enter a place actually invested, been in any degree admitted.

It is true that the British government renewed the order concerning provisions about the time of the ratification of this treaty; but it is not less true, that the government of the United States manifested a firm resolution to submit to no such construction, and remonstrated so seriously against it as to produce a revocation of the order. Nor is this all; the claims for provisions seized in cases of mere proclamation blockade have been actually decided in favor of the claimants. The British government has acquiesced under such decisions by paying the sums awarded. These sums were not limited to a reasonable profit on the price of the commodity seized, but were regulated by its price at the port of destination, and consequently the actual as well as avowed principle of such decisions was, that the goods seized had not become contraband "according to the existing law of nations."

The intention of the government then, and the practice under the article, are in direct opposition to these injurious suspicions, the indulgence of which has produced such pernicious effects. It is even believed that the decision on this subject will be the step towards the establishment of that principle for which America has never ceased to contend. It is also believed, and has ever been believed, that the article objected to would have a necessary tendency to increase, and did in fact increase the quantity of provisions imported from America into France and her colonies. The American commerce, being entirely in the hands of individuals, is consequently conducted by them according to their own views of particular advantage; they will unquestionably endeavour to supply the highest market, unless restrained from doing so by other considerations which render it unadvisable to attempt such a supply. In their calculation, the risk of reducing the market is too important an item to be passed over or forgotten—Every diminution of this risk adds to the number of those who will attempt the supply; and consequently a knowledge that the voyage, should it even fail by the seizure of the vessel, would yet be profitable, must increase the number of these who would make it.

It is plain that this article admits the seizure of provisions in no situation where they were not before seizable; and encourages their transportation to France and her colonies, by diminishing the risk of such transportation.

It is also complained of, that this treaty has not, "as all treaties do, pointed out particularly the cases of the effective blockade of a place," as alone forming an exception to the freedom of provisions.

Articles in a treaty can only be inserted by consent. The United States therefore can never be responsible for not having inserted an article to which the other contracting party would not assent. They

may refuse to make any change in the existing state of things prejudicial to themselves or other powers—and they have refused to make any such change. But it is not in their power to insert, as by common consent, an article, though merely declaratory of a principle, which they considered as certainly existing, and which they mean to support, if such common consent be unattainable. All that can be done in such a case is, to leave the principle unimpaired, reserving entirely the right to assert it.—This has been done—the principle was left unimpaired, and has been since successfully asserted.

The United States are at all times truly solicitous to diminish, as much as possible, the list of contraband. It is their interest, in common with all other nations, whose policy is peace, to enlarge, so far as they can be enlarged, the rights of neutrals. This interest is a sure guarantee for their using those means which they think calculated to effect the object, and which a just regard to their situation will permit. But they must be allowed to pursue the object in such a manner as may comport with that situation. While they surrender no actual right, in preserving which there is a common interest—while they violate no pre-existing engagements, and these they have not surrendered or violated, they must judge exclusively for themselves how far they will or ought to go in their efforts to acquire new rights, or establish new principles.—When they surrender this privilege they cease to be independent, and they will no longer deserve to be free—They will have surrendered into other hands the most sacred of deposits—the right of self government; and instead of the approbation, they will merit the contempt of the world.

Those parts of the treaty between the United States and Britain, which have been selected by France as injurious to her, have now been examined. The undersigned are too well convinced that they in no degree justify the enmity they are alledged to have produced, not to rely on a candid reconsideration of them, as a sure mean of removing the impressions they are supposed to have made.

Before this subject is entirely closed one other objection will be noticed. The very formation of a commercial treaty with England seems to be reprobated as furnishing just cause of offence to France: and Mr. Adet has permitted himself to say, "It was a little matter, only to allow the English to avail themselves of the advantages of our treaty; it was necessary to insure those to them by the aid of a contract which might serve at once as a reply to the claims of France, and as premptory motives for refusal; refusal; the true cause of which it was requisite incessantly to disguise to her under specious pretexts. Such was the object of Mr. Jay's mission to London; such was the object of a negociation enveloped from its origin in the shadow of mystery, and covered with the veil of dissimulation."

Passing over this extraordinary language, the undersigned, being only desirous of producing accommodation by the exhibition of truth, will consider the opinion which is obliquely hinted and the fact is directly averred.

The practice of forming commercial treaties is so universal among other nations, having any commercial intercourse with each other, that it seems unnecessary to discuss their utility. The right to form those treaties has been so universally asserted and admitted, that it seems to be the inseparable attribute of sovereignty, to be questioned only by those who question the right of a nation to govern itself, and to be ceded only by those who are prepared to cede their independence.

But the prosperity of the United States is in a peculiar degree promoted by external commerce. A people almost exclusively agricultural, have not within themselves a market for the surplus produce of their labour, or a sufficient number and variety of articles of exchange to supply the wants of the cultivators; they cannot have an internal which will compensate for the loss of an external commerce; they must search abroad for manufactures for many other articles which contribute to the comfort and convenience of life, and they must search abroad for a market for that large portion of the productions of their soil, which cannot be consumed at home. The policy of a nation thus circumstanced, must ever be to encourage external commerce, and to open to itself every possible market for the disposition of its superfluities, and the supply of its wants. The commercial and manufacturing character and capacities of England must turn into that channel a considerable portion of the commerce of any nation under the circumstances of the United States. It is a market too important and too valuable to be closed; in consequence a considerable portion of their commerce has taken that direction, and a continual solicitude has been manifested to regulate and secure it by contract.

To abolish this commerce, or to refuse to give it permanence and security by fair and equal stipulations would be a sacrifice which no nation ought to require, and which no nation ought to make. In forming her treaty of amity and commerce, with the United States, France claimed no such prerogative. That treaty declares the intention of the parties to be, "to fix in an equitable and permanent manner the rules which ought to be followed relative to the correspondence and commerce, which the two parties desire to establish between the two respective countries, states, and subjects;" and that "they have judged that the said end could not be better obtained than by taking for the basis of their agreement the most perfect equality and reciprocity; and by carefully avoiding all those burthensome preferences, which are usually sources of debate, embarrassment, and discontent, by leaving also each party at liberty to make, respecting commerce and navigation, those interior regulations which it shall find most convenient to itself, and by founding the advantage of commerce solely upon reciprocal utility, and the just rules of free intercourse, reserving withal to each party the liberty of admitting at its pleasure, other nation to a participation of the same advantages." The treaty itself contains no stipulation in any degree contradictory to those declarations of the preamble, or which could suggest a suspicion that under these declarations was concealed a wish to abridge the sovereignty of the United States with respect to treaties, or to control their interests in regard to commerce. In forming a commercial treaty with Britain, therefore, in which no peculiar privilege is granted, the government of the United States believed itself to be transacting a business exclusively its own, which could give umbrance to none, and which no other nation on earth would consider itself as having a right to interfere in. There existed consequently no motive for concealing from France, or any other power, that the negociation of Mr. Jay might or might not terminate in a commercial treaty. The declaration therefore was not made; nor is it usual for nations about to enter into negociations, to proclaim to others the various objects to which those negociations may possibly be directed.—Such is not, nor has it ever been the practice of France. To suppose a necessity or a duty on the part of one government thus to proclaim all its views, or to consult another with respect to its arrangements of its own affairs, is to imply a dependence to which no government ought willingly to submit. So far as the interests of France might be involved in the negociation, the instructions given to the negociator were probably communicated. The minister of this republic was informed officially that Mr. Jay was instructed not to weaken the engagements of the United States to France. Further information was neither to have been required or expected; indeed, that which was given furnished reason to suppose that one of the objects of the negociation with Great Britain was a commercial treaty.

Why then such unnecessary and unmerited sarcasms against a cautious and unoffending ally; those objects which she pursued were such as an independent nation might legitimately pursue, and such as America never had dissembled her wish to obtain. Why should an effort be made to impress France with an opinion, that Mr. Jay was not authorized to negociate a commercial treaty with Britain, when the fixed opinion of America has ever been, that France could not be and ought not to be dissatisfied with the formation of such a treaty? Why should the minister of France have been informed officially that Mr. Jay was especially instructed not to weaken the engagements of the United States to France, if it was intended to convince that minister, that his powers did not extend to subjects in any degree connected with those engagements? To what purpose should the government of the United States have practised a deception deemed by itself totally unnecessary, and which its utmost efforts could not long continue? It requires an equal degree of folly and vice to practise an useless fraud which must inevitably and immediately be detected, and the detection of which must expose its author to general infamy, as well as the enmity of those on whom the fraud had been practised. These considerations ought to have produced some hesitation concerning the fact. The testimony in support of it ought to have been very positive and very unexceptionable, before it received implicit faith. It should have been very clear that there was no mistake, no misunderstanding concerning the information communicated, before the charge was made, in such terms as the minister of France has been pleased to employ; but the testimony is believed to be satisfactory, that the government of the United States has not endeavored to impress in France any opinion on this subject which the fact of the case did not warrant. The declaration of Mr. Randolph, made July 8th, 1795, is full on this point. It is in these words: "I never could with truth have informed the French minister, that the mission, as set forth in the President's message to the senate, contemplated only an adjustment of our complaints; if by this phrase it be intended to exclude commercial arrangements I could have no reason for saying so, since the French republic could have had nothing to do with our commercial arrangements, if they did derogate from her rights: it could have answered no purpose when so short a time would develope the contrary—I never did inform the French minister as is above stated.

The only official conversation whi I recollect with Mr. Fauchet upon this subject, was when I communicated to him, with the Presidents permission, that Mr. Jay was instructed not to weaken our engagements to France, neither then nor at any time in official or unofficial conversation, did I ever say to him that nothing of a commercial nature was contemplated, or, 'that nothing but the contraverses under the old treaty and the spoliations were contemplated.

"Mr. Fauchet some time ago said to me, that he understood from what I said, that Mr. Jay was not authorised to treat of commercial matter; I told him he misunderstood me, no letter has ever passed upon this subject."

If then Mr. Randolph did give Mr. Fauchet the information contended for, it is plain that he never was authorised to do so; but the considerations already detailed, render it infinitely more probable that Mr. Fauchet has misunderstood Mr. Randolph, than that Mr. Randolph has misinformed Mr. Fauchet.

The undersigned have taken, they trust, a correct view of the leading and influential measures adopted by the government of the United States; they have endeavoured to state with firmness and with candor, the motives which have occasioned the adoption of those measures, and the operation they are believed to have. They have shewn that if America is to be reproached with partialities irreconcileable with her neutral situation, it is not by France that those reproaches ought to be made. They have been induced to take this review, by a hope which they cannot relinquish without regret, that it may contribute to efface impressions which misrepresentation may have made, and to take from the intention and conduct of the government they represent, that false colouring which unfriendly pencils have so profusely bestowed upon them. They are anxious still to cherish an hope, that by exposing frankly and sincerely, the sentiments which have hitherto guided their nation, they may restore dispositions on the part of France, compatible with the continuance of those sentiments.

Complaints have been made that in the application of particular cases, of those general principles which the neutral nation of the United States rendered indispensible, inconveniences and vexations which were unavoidable, have been sometimes sustained. These complaints have been separately and fully discussed.

The undersigned persuade themselves, that the explanations which have been given respecting them, if not entirely satisfactory, have yet been such as to prove the good faith and upright intentions which never ceased to direct the conduct of the United States.

It notwithstanding this good faith, and the purity of these intentions, the difficulty of their situation has in any case produced even an involuntary departure from those principles by which they professed to be guided, they are ready to consider that case, and repair any insult which may inadvertantly have been committed. With these dispositions on their part, with this consciousness of having never ceased to merit the friendship and esteem of the French nation, with a conviction that a temperate and thorough view of the past cannot fail to remove prejudices not warranted by facts, the United States have relied confidently on the justice of France, for a discountenance and reparation of those serious & heavy injuries which have been accumulated on them.

Desirous of establishing, not the independence of a weak or a powerful nation, but that real and cordial friendship, the willing and spontaneous offering of generous minds, which can only be lasting when evinced to be mutual, and can only be preserved when bottomed on reciprocal justice, the undersigned will now represent with candor and frankness, the well founded complaints with which they are charged.

These complaints consist—

Of claims uncontroverted by the government of France, but which remain unsatisfied, and

Of claims founded on the captures and confiscations, the illegality of which has not yet been admitted.

In the first class are arranged,

Firstly—Those whose property has been seized under the decree of the national convention of the 9th May, 1793.

Secondly—Those who are entitled to compensation in consequence of the long detention of their vessels at Bourdeaux in the years 1793 and 1794.

Thirdly—The holders of bills and other evidences of debts due, drawn by the colonial administrators in the West-Indies.

Fourthly—Those whose cargoes have been appropriated to public use without receiving therefor adequate payment, and important supplies, in the forcible seizure of valuable property, accompanied with promises of payment, and injurious detentions, constitute a mass of debt which the justice and good faith of the French government cannot refuse to provide for, and which is too considerable to be noticed by that of the United States. The undersigned are instructed to solicit your attention to this subject, and they would persuade themselves that they do not solicit in vain. So many circumstances concur to give force to the application, that they leave it to your government in the confidence that no additional representations can be necessary.

They pass to complaints still more important for their amount, more interesting in their nature, and more serious in their consequences.

On the 14th Messidor, 4th year of the French republic, one and indivisible (July 2d, '96) the executive directory decreed—"That all neutral or allied powers shall without delay be notified that the flag of the French republic will treat neutral vessels either as to confiscation, as to searcher or capture, in the same manner as they shall suffer the English to treat them.—This decree, in any point of view in which it can be considered, could not fail to excite in the United States the most serious attention. It dispensed at once, as they conceive, with the most solemn obligations which compact can create, and consequently asserts a right on the part of France, to recede at her discretion from any stipulations she may have entered into. It has been demonstrated that governments may contract changes, as between themselves, the rules established by the law of nations, and that such contract becomes completely obligatory on the parties, though it can in no manner affect the rights of others, yet by this decree allies with whom such stipulations exist are to be treated, without regard to such stipulations, in the same manner as they are treated by others, who are bound by a different tye.—This as it respects the United States, is the more unfriendly, because a readiness has been manifested on their part to modify, by consent, their treaty with France, as to reinstate the rules established by the law of nations.

The general terms too in which this decree is conceived, threatened but too certainly the mischiefs it has generated, and the abuses which have been practised under it. Neutrals are to be treated as they shall permit the English to treat them. No rule extracted from the practice for England is laid down, which might govern the cruisers of France, or instruct the vessels of neutrals. No principles are stated manifesting the opinion entertained of the treatment received from England, which might enable a neutral to controvert that opinion, and to shew that the English were not permitted to treat its flag as was supposed by the government of France. To judge from the decree itself, from any information given concerning it, or from the practice under it, those who were to be benefited by its abuse, were to decide in what manner it should be executed, and the cruiser who should fall in with a valuable vessel, had only to consult his own capacity, in order to determine whether an English privateer, meeting a vessel under similar circumstances, could capture and bring her into port. Multiplied excesses, and accumulated vexations could not but have been apprehended from such a decree, and the fact has realized every fear that was entertained concerning it. It has been construed even in Europe to authorize the capture and condemnation of American vessels for the single circumstance of their being destined to a British port. At no period of the war has Britain undertaken to exercise such a power. At no period of the war has she asserted such a right. It is power which prostrates every principle of national sovereignty and to which no nation can submit, without relinquishing at the same time its best interests, and sacrificing its dearest rights. This power has been exercised by France on the rich and unprotected commerce of an ally, on the presumption that that ally was suffering the same injuries from Britain, at a time when it was believed that the depredations of that nation had ceased, and the principle of compensating for them had been recognized.

In the West Indies similar depredations have been experienced. On the 1st of August, '96, the special agent of the executive directory to the windward islands, decreed, that all vessels loaded with con-

traband should be seized and confiscated for the benefit of the captors.

On the 7th Frimaire, 5th year of the French republic, one and indivisible, (27th November, '96) the commission delegated by the French republic to the leeward islands, resolved that the captains of French national vessels and privateers are authorised to stop and bring into the ports of the colony American vessels bound to English ports or coming from the said ports.

On the 19th Pluviose, 5th year of the French republic, one and indivisible, (Feb. 1st, '97) Victor Hugues and Lebas, the special agents of the executive directory to the Windward islands, passed a decree, subjecting to capture and confiscation neutral vessels destined for the windward and leeward islands of America, delivered up to the English, and occupied and defended by the emigrants. These ports are said to be Martinico St. Lucie, Tobago, Demarara, Berbice, Essequibo, Port au Prince, St. Mark, L'Archaye and Jeremie. The decree also subjects to capture all vessels which have cleared out for the West-Indies generally.

The undersigned will not detain you, citizen minister, for the purpose of proving how directly and openly these decrees violate both the law of nations and the treaty between France and the United States.

They have been executed on the officers and crews of the captured vessels in a manner, by no means calculated to mitigate their rigor,

The decree of the fourteenth of Messidor was soon followed by another which has spared but little of the American commerce, except what has fortunately escaped the pursuit of the cruizers of France.

Alexandria, May 17.

At a respectable Meeting of the Young Men of Alexandria, assembled at the Court-House, in pursuance of a public notice for that purpose, The following resolutions were adopted:

JOHN C. HERBERT, ESQ.
IN THE CHAIR.

Resolved. That Messrs. John C. Herbert, Walter Jones, John M'Rea, Peter Wise, and Robert Young be appointed a committee to prepare an Address to the President of the United States, expressive of the warm attachment of this meeting to the government of our common country, and its resolute and fixed determination to repel with indignant energy, every attempt of a foreign foe, to violate our rights as an independent nation, at the same time promising our active co-operation, if necessary, either by personal service, or pecuniary aid, in any measure for the preservation of our national character, or the defence of our coasts against invasion.

Resolved, That this meeting again assemble themselves at 5 o'clock to-morrow evening, in order to take into consideration the address which shall be prepared by the committee, and if it should be approved to sign their names to the same. And that, as a national distinction, and an evidence of an association in the defence of their country, they wear the American Cockade.

It is with pain that the Editor announces the following melancholy circumstance.—On the morning of the 16th instant, Col. JOHN HOOE, of Prince-William county, was drowned in the river near Colchester.—His previous dejection of spirit, and conduct on the fatal morning, has given rise to an idea that he did it intentionally. If so, may he meet with a merciful, not an avenging, God—and may this one act of impiety be cancelled by a recurrence to his former virtues and goodness.

APPOINTMENTS
BY AUTHORITY.

Joseph Hopkinson, of Pennsylvania, commissioner for holding a treaty with the Oneida Indians.

Winthrop Sargent of the North Western territory, governor of the Mississippi territory.

John Steel, of Virginia, secretary of ditto.

Peter Bryan Bruin, of the Mississippi territory, to be second judge of ditto.

Daniel Tilton, of New-Hampshire, third judge of ditto.

General Bryan, of Pennsylvania, second mate of a Revenue Cutter.

On Friday last, the house of representives of the United States again went into a committee of the whole on the bill for authorising the president of the U. States to raise a provisional army, when Mr. Dawson moved to amend the amendment proposed by the select committee, by striking out the following words—"or of imminent danger of such invasion, discovered, in his opinion to exist."

This motion was negatived, 48 to 41, Mr. Sewall then proposed, instead of the president having the power to raise this army for three years, to insert the following—*before the next session of congress which is or shall be appointed by law.* After undergoing several variations the proposition was agreed to in the following words—*before the next session of congress.*

Mr. Sitgreaves next moved to strike out the following words from the bill, with the intention of inserting nothing in their place, with the view that the army might be immediately raised *whenever he shall judge the public safety requires the measure.* The question for striking out was carried, but they were supplied by the words recommended by the select committee, viz. "*in the event of a declaration of war against the United States, or of actual invasion of their territory by a foreign power, or of imminent danger of such invasion discovered in his opinion, to exist,*" 68 votes being for it.—The next proposition of the select committee was to reduce the number of men to be raised, from 20,000 to 10,000. Mr. Gallatin moved to reduce them to 5,000. This motion was negatived 47 to 41, and that for inserting 10,000 instead of 20,000 carried, by 54 votes being in its favor. Some discussion then took place on the proposition for giving the President power to call out the militia in detachments, not exceeding 20,000 men each, to be trained and disciplined; but some doubts of a constitutional nature being suggested, the committee rose, reported progress, and had leave to sit again. On motion of Mr. Harper, who spoke of some business which would require the attention of the committee of ways and means this day, the house adjourned till Monday.

LATEST FROM FRANCE.

Extract of a letter from Gloucester, dated May 6.

"This day arrived the schooner Freedom, captain Joshua Woodbury, 45 days from Bourdeaux; he left the city the 16th of March, and the Cordevan the 21st. Two American masters came passengers with him, whose vessels were condemned at Bayonne, one of them belonged to Mr. Edward Jones of Boston, the other to Mr. Scobie. Captain Woodbury informs me, that our envoys were *not received.* Preparations were still going on against England. He likewise says, that all the American seamen were taken out of the vessels at Bourdeaux, and put into jail (except two to each vessel to take care of them) fortunately only one of his crew was imprisoned, and he got him clear and pushed off for home.

"This vessel has brought *very large dispatches* for the *French consuls*, given to the captain by our *faithful* consul, Mr. *Fenwick.** "*Well sir,*" said Mr. F. to captain W. "*So* YOUR *country is going to make war against* US" *Tres bien dit, le bon citoyen Fenwick!* This comes from the appointment of "*Gallo Americano jacobins.*" Unless these things should be ordered better, all will be lost. It is high time to have in office, only those men who are true Americans, who *know our rights and are determined to defend them.*"

* *This is the man, that citoyen Monroe speaks so highly of.*

FOR THE MIRROR.

MR. GIRD,

Having been a constant attendant on the Theatre during the last season, I was much pleased with the performances generally, and with the propriety and decorum, which was in all cases preserved. I did intend to have transmitted you a regular series of remarks upon the drama, but was fearful lest some observations, which would have been unavoidable, should have damped the exertions of the youthful performers. The season is now closed, and the Company are about forming an encampment in the neighboring Town of Dumfries.—May they there receive a reward equal to their merit and unceasing exertion.

While writing on this subject, I can not avoid paying a tribute to the amiable BELVIDERA, who, I understand has accepted an engagement in the Philadelphia Company. Few ladies are better calculated to please than Mrs. Shaw. Possessed of a speaking eye—a voice at once sweet and various—and using action the most chaste and elegant—she never fails to convey to the hearts of her audience with force the full meaning of the author. This assertion she did ample justice to in BELVIDERA. Her introduction of the mad scene, the last night of performance, was peculiarly gratifying—It was a high coloured picture of despair and phrenzy.

It was with pleasing regret that I first heard mention made of her new engagement,—I was pleased that she was called to act in a sphere which her theatrical merits will adorn, and which will prove an advantage to her—but I regretted that by that engagement we should be deprived, at least for some years, of those abilities which have been such a source of amusement. Should Mrs. SHAW return here again, she leaves such an impression on our minds, as must insure her a sincere and hearty welcome. I am confident I now speak the sentiments of all Alexandria, who delight in the rational amusement of the drama.

To Mrs. SHAW must I now address myself—May you, Madam, while pursuing your theatrical career, always meet with audiences as sensible of your merits as that of Alexandria—possessing hearts capable of feeling—hands ready to applaud—and purses open to reward. And may your own heart never be torn by such anguish as you pourtrayed in the character of Belvidera.

DRAMATICUS.

MR. GIRD,

The unknown commander of the artillery who issued his orders in the Times of yesterday would do well in his next to affix his name and not degrade the character of a gentlemen by imposing falsehoods on the public.

The officer who has the honor to command the artillery company of Alexandria, feels an assured confidence that every individual of whom it is composed, holds himself in readiness to march, whenever their country calls them, not only to Norfolk, but to the extremity of the United States, to repel any enemy that dare invade her territory.

WILLIAM HARPER.

N. B. The company is requested to attend parade precisely at three o'clock this evening on the Mall. W. H.

May 17th, '98.

☞ *The officers commanding the different companies of militia and light infantry, in the town of Alexandria, beg leave to remind the members inrolled in their several companies, that Saturday next is appointed for their private muster, at Spring Gardens, preceding the next battalion muster, which will be at Fairfax's old field, at which the members are requested to be punctual in their attendance, with such arms as they can procure.*

Alexandria, 16th May, 1798.

ERRATUM.

The readers of the Mirror will please to correct the following Erratum. In the letter from the Rev. Doctor DAVIS to the Editor which precedes the prayer used on the fast day, the words, "*in that way,*" were inserted. They should have been "*on that day.*"

Washington, Commissioner's Office 7th May, 1766.

THE commissioners will receive proposals until the 20th June next, for building in the city of Washington, one of the executive offices for the United States, of the following external dimensions—148 feet in length, and 58 feet 6 inches in breadth—cellar wall 30 inches, first story 23 inches, and second story 18 inches, partition walls averaging 15 inches; to contain on the ground floor 14 rooms, same number on the second story, and in the roof 8 room, with a passage. The whole external of the building to be of flock brick—the inside walls of hard burnt bricks, cellar of best foundation stone, to the height of the girders, the outside wall as far as they show above ground, to the plinth, to be of plain ashlar freestone, soles of windows, sills of doors, and string course of free stone. The house to be covered with cypress shingles, the rooms in general to be 16 feet by 20, finished in a plain neat manner, of the best materials. Six small rooms to be groined.

A plan and elevation of said building, and a bill of particulars, are lodged in the office, for the inspection of those who may wish to contract;—also a copy of the said bill at the office of Clement Biddle, Esq. at Philadelphia.

Proposals sealed up, will be received until the 20th June next, on which day, the boards will proceed to contract with such person as shall appear, under all circumstances to offer the best terms.

By order of the Commissioners,
THOMAS MUNROE, Clk.

For Sale,
On reasonable terms,
THE SLOOP
NANCY,
OF VIENNA,

97 tons burthen, now lying at Col. Fitzgerald's wharf. She is a very faithful built vessel, is in good order, sails well, and is built only two years. I will take one half cash, and will take a negociable note, with a good indorser for the other—length of credit as may be agreed on.

ROBERT BOYCE,
on board.

May 17. 3t

James Patten & James Dykes
HAVE RECEIVED
500 Spanish Hides,
of the first quality.

May 17.

SINGLE and double refined Loaf Sugar, and Lump Sugar, manufactured at the Sugar Refinery in the city of Washington, for sale by

JOHN JANNEY.

5th mo. 17. 2awtf

JUST RECEIVED,
AND FOR SALE BY
Josiah Faxen & Co.
a fresh supply of
Gentlemens' shoes & pumps,
of the newest taste and fashions—ladies kid and Morocco slippers of various colours—womens' fancy, fluff, and leather slippers, do. rand shoes and slippers—misses, Morocco and leather slippers,—boys' and children's shoes and pumps,—ladies fattin beaver hats,

Also for sale
26 bags of good green coffee
6 chests Souchong Tea
2 do. Bohea do.
20 cases of Holland Gin
4 barrels of Apple brandy
20 do. N. E. Rum
8 hogshead Jamaica do.
15 half barrels mess beef
20 quintals of good codfish
1 crate earthen ware well assorted
1 do. Glass
4 boxes chocolate
Rhode Island Lime
An assortment of pewter
Gunpowder in kegs and papers
Cheese
Good seed Potatoes
Humhums

Also, a strong one horse CHAISE, with a top and harness complete.

May 17.

Ten Dollars Reward.

RAN AWAY from the subscriber, on Saturday morning the 12th inst. a likely negro fellow, named GEORGE, about 5 feet 6 or 7 inches high, full faced, of a pretty stout make, about 20 years of age, is very fond of snuff, &c. On one of his big toes, near the end, is a large lump, occasioned by the but of a scythe. He had on when he went away a German oznaburgs shirt, white kersey jacket and trowsers, woolen cap, the turned up part of which is red, and the inside white, a pair of strong shoes, the bottoms of which are well nailed—but we expect he will endeavor to change his clothes, particularly his cap for a hat. We have reason to suppose that he will either push towards Fauquier County, near Rector Town, where he formerly lived, with Mr. Robert Allison, or to George Town ferry, near to which he has a sister living, or perhaps he may go to the Federal City, or Baltimore, and endeavor there to pass for a freeman. He is a good distiller and mower, and understands almost every kind of farming business. The above reward will be given if taken out of this county, and five dollars if within the county, and all reasonable charges if delivered to us in Alexandria.

HEPBURN & DUNDAS.

May 17.

Jacob Hoffman,
FAIRFAX-STREET.
Has just received a good and well selected assortment of
India and German Goods,
viz.

Gurrah,	MUSLINS	Ticklenburg,	GERM. GOODS
Baftas,		Dowlas,	
Gorenas,		Rolls,	
Coffas,		Ravens Duck,	
Mamodas		Russia Sheeting,	
Calico,	INDIA GOODS.	Brown Hempen,	
Nankeens,		White do.	
Bandannoes		Brown Platillas,	
Handkerchiefs.			

ALSO,
An Elegant Assortment of
India and English Silks,
Irish Linens, Chintzes, and Calicos; fashionable Hats and Bonnets, Girdles, white and coloured Gloves, Muslin and Chintz Shawls, a good assortment of Tambour'd, Jaconett, and Book Muslin, both India and English; with a few cases of Mens' course Hats.

May 17. 4t

APPRENTICES' INDENTURES,
For sale at this office.

VENDUE

ON TUESDAY and FRIDAY, in every week, at 10 o'clock in the morning, will be exposed for sale at the Vendue Store (corner of Prince and Water streets

A VARIETY OF

WET & DRY GOODS.

Of which the particulars will be given previous to the sale.

The VENDUE MASTERS will always keep the Store open for the reception of GOODS, and selling of such articles therein between the times of public sales as may be on limitation. They likewise offer their services in transacting any kind of Commission Business.

MARSTELLER & SONS.

April 5th, 1798.

PUBLIC SALE AT THE COFFEE HOUSE.

On Saturday next the 19th inst. at 12 o'clock precisely, will be sold to the highest bidder, at 60 and 90 days,

20,000 acres Land,

Lying in Lincoln county, State of Kentuckey, in three tracts—two of 5,000 each, and one of 10 000 acres. Notes negotiable in the Bank of Alexandria, with approved indorsers will be required.

MARSTELLER & SONS.

May 15.

For a Port in Europe.

THE SHIP

LEXINGTON.

This ship will load to the address of Messrs. Findlay, Bannatyne, & Co. Merchants in London. Freight will be taken for about 100 hhds. and shippers may be accommodated with a liberal advance, by applying to

WM. WILSON.

Who has for sale,
60 cases fine old Claret,
And a few pipes of old Port.

May 15.

For Charter,

TO ANY PART OF EUROPE OR THE WEST INDIES,

The Swedish Ship

M A R S,

John C. Petrey, commander,
Burthen six hundred and fifty tons.

JONATHAN SWIFT.

May 8.

TWELVE MONTHS CREDIT.

NOTICE.

On the 28th day of May next, will be exposed to public sale, on the premises, on a credit o twelve months, the purchaser giving notef with approved endorsers,

ALL THE GOODS, WARES, AND MERCHANDISE,

belonging to the Estate of the late George Hunter, in Fairfax street, Alexandria, consisting of a general assortment of well chosen

DRY GOODS,

suitable for the present and approaching season, together with a quantity of

Hardware, Crockery, and Glass Ware.

The creditors of the deceased, bringing in their accounts properly attested, may purchase to the amount thereof, they giving receipts in full for their claims.

☞ Those who are indebted to the estate of said George Hunter, by bond, note, or book account, are requested to make immediate payment of their respective dues, otherwise I shall be under the necessity of bringing suit, in order to satisfy the demands against the said estate.

GEORGE BEARD,
ADMINISTRATOR.

April 26.

FOR SALE,

ON THE MOST MODERATE TERMS, BY

Anthony Charles Cazenove

Prince Street, next door to Col. Hoe's,

Russia Sheeting,

Tickienburg,
26, 28, and 30 inch Umbrellas,
Swiss Chintzes,
Silks,
Ribbons, assorted,
Men and womens' white and coloured silk stockings,
Thread and black silk laces,
Long and short kid gloves,
Silk gloves,
Ostrich Feathers,
Beads of all sizes,
Muslin shawls and handkerchiefs,
An elegant assortment of Watches, Jewellery, &c.
41 quarter casks Sherry wine entitled to drawback,
Brandy Preserves, and Ratafia Cordials,

ALSO

A Forte Piano,

to be sold very low.

May 8.

Lately Published

at Philadelphia, and to be had at Price's Book Store,

"PROOFS OF A CONSPIRACY AGAINST ALL THE RELIGIONS AND GOVERMENTS OF EUROPE."

Carried on in the secret meetings of Free Masons, Illuminati, and Reading Societies.

BY JOHN ROBINSON.

Price 10s6.

ALSO,

THE ENTERTAINING, MORAL, AND RELIGIOUS

REPOSITORY,

Containing upwards of three score separate performances.

May 8.

WRITING PAPER

Of the descriptions following may be had at PRICE'S BOOK STORE,—viz.

Royal, Medium, Demy,

folio Post, thin quarto do. thick quarto do. Fools Cap, Pot, &c.

May 12. 3t

Dumfries Theatre.

THE Ladies and Gentlemen of Dumfries (with the public in general) are respectfully informed, that the company of COMEDIANS, now in Alexandria, will perform in that town during the sitting of the District Court. A great variety of the most esteemed and newest Dramatic Pieces, (never performed there) will be presented, and every exertion used to render the entertainments worthy the attention of that audience, whose approbation they will ever be studious to merit.

May 15.

NOTICE.

THE subscriber having entered into copartnership with WM. P. MATTHEWS, of Baltimore, the DRUG business in future will be continued under the firm of

Thomas Dempsey & Co.

N. B. All persons having claims against the firm of DEMPSEY, HARRIS, & Co. will please to render their accounts—and those indebted are requested to make speedy payment to

THOMAS DEMPSEY,

who is duly authorised to settle up the business of the said firm.

May 1.

JOHN LEMOINE,

FAIRFAX STREET, OPPOSITE THE STORE OF MESSRS. PATTON & BUTCHER,

HAS FOR SALE ON COMMISSION,

The following articles, which he will dispose of on VERY MODERATE TERMS for cash or country produce, viz.

4000 pair of Men, Women, Girls and Boys SHOES, well assorted, by wholesale or retail—*These articles will be sold remarkably low.*

20 barrels of West-India and East-India SUGAR.

70 boxes of excellent dry COD FISH, well packed up.

15 barrels of WHISKEY.

He has also for sale,

Several Lots and Houses in this town.—He purchases and sells Bank Stock.—Gives Cash for Notes, or on good security—and continues to transact business as a Broker, and on Commission, on his usual plan. He pledges himself, that a strict secrecy will be observed in all cases where required.

He has likewise on hand, a variety of

Saddles and Bridles, Carriage and Waggon HARNESS, &c. &c,

March 24.

I WILL SELL

From 100 to 150 hhds. Tobacco,

principally collected, and laying in town.

Wm. HODGSON.

May 12.

THE PARTNERSHIP OF

GEORGE SMITH & CO.

at Dumfries, is dissolved this day by mutual consent. The business of the concern will be settled by George Smith, who will pay the debts due by the company, and to whom those indebted are requested to make payment.

JAMES CAVAN,
GEORGE SMITH.

May 11.

NOTICE.

ALL persons having demands against the estate of the late ANN M'HENRY, of Alexandria, are requested to furnish them immediately to the subscribers, proved as the law directs. And those indebted to the said estate, or the estate of the late JAMES M'HENRY, are requested to pay them to the subscribers, who wishes to settle the administration with all speede

JESSE TAYLOR, } Administrators.
PATRICK BURNS, }

May 10. 4t

NOTICE.

THE citizens of Alexandria that have subscribed to the "Mutual Insurance Company against Fire on Goods and Furniture in the State of Virginia," are respectfully requested to deliver their declarations to the subscriber immediately.

JONATHAN SWIFT.

May 8.

At a Court continued and held for Fairfax County, the 24th day of March, 1798.

Joseph Clark, Compl.
against
John Wright and Joseph Peck, Def'ts. } In Chancery

THE defendant John Wright, not having entered his appearance, and given security, according to law, and the rules of this court, and it appearing to the satisfaction of the court that he is not an inhabitant of this country:—On the motion of the complainant by his counsel it is ordered, that the said defendan do appear here on the third Monday in June next, and answer the bill of the complainant, and that a copy of this order be forthwith inserted in the Alexandria Gazette for two months successively, and posted up at the front of the courthouse of this county. And it is further decreed and ordered, that the said defendant Joseph Peck do not pay, convey away, or secrete any of the money or effects in his hands, belonging to the defendant John Wright, until the further order and decree of this court.

A Copy,
Teste,
P. WAGENER.

March 27. 2m.

At a court, continued and held for Fairfax county the 24th day of March, 1798.

Joseph Clark, compl.
against
John Wright and Joseph Peck, def'ts. } In Chancery

THE defendant John Wright, not having entered his appearance, and given security, according to law, and the rules of this court, and it appearing to the satisfaction of the court, that he is not an inhabitant of this country:—On the motion of the complainant by his counsel it is ordered, that the said defendant do appear on the third Monday in June next, and answer the bill of the complainant, and that a copy of this order be forthwith inserted in the Alexandria Gazette for two months successively, and posted up at the front of the courthouse of this county. And it is further decreed and ordered, that the said defendant Joseph Peck do not pay, convey away, or secrete any of the money or effects in his hands, belonging to the defendant John Wright, until the further order and decree of this court.

A Copy,
Teste,
P. WAGENER.

March 29. 2m

At a Court continued and held for Fairfax county, the 24th day of March, 1798.

Hugh Smith, compl.
against
John Wright and Josep Peck, Def'ts. } In Chancery

THE defendant John Wright, not having entered his appearance, and giving security according to law, and the rules of this court, and it appearing to the satisfaction of the court, that he is not an inhabitant of this country—on the motion of the complainant by his counsel, it is ordered that the said defendant do appear here on the third monday in June next, and answer the bill of the complainant; and that a copy of this order be forthwith inserted in the Alexandria Gazette for two months, and posted up at the front door of the court house of this county. And it is further decreed and ordered, that the defendant Joseph Peck, do not pay, convey away, or secrete any of the money or effects in his hands belonging to the said defendant John Wright, until the further order of this court.

A Copy,
Teste,
P. WAGENER.

March 29, 2m

To be Rented, or Sold,

And possession given immediately.

The house wherein the subscriber kept a store for several years, now occupied by Mr. Thomas Harrison, Jun. The above house stands in as good a situation for business as any in the town, and is well calculated for the accommodation of a family. Also a lot with a new house thereon, near the market house in this town. Terms may be known by applying to the subscriber, living at Laurel Hill, three miles from Dumfries, or to Mr. William Smith, residing in town, who will shew the property to any person who should wish to treat for it.

WM. BARNES.

Dumfries, May 12. 1m.

POTOMAC LAND

OF the first quality, containing 400 acres, 200 of which are cloath'd with heavy white oaks, a tolerabel dwelling house, convenient barn, and small orchard, is offered for sale.

Lots in the city of Washington will be received as a part of the payment, if the terms of sale and price are agreed on within the days, with

W. S. THOMPSON.

Alex. May 1.

SEVEN HUNDRED DOZEN BEST

London Bottled Porter.

In casks containing 6 dozen each, for sale by

JOSEPH RIDDLE & CO

March 1.

JUST RECEIVED,

And for Sale by the subscriber,

Sallad Oil in cases of 30 bottles.

Hazlenuts in hogsheads,
Almonds in Do.
Olives, Capers, and Anchovies in boxes of 12 bottles.
Sugar in hogsheads and barrels,
Antigua Rum,
Molasses,
Port Wine in quarter casks,
Raisins in casks,

JA'S PATTEN & JA'S DYKES.

May 8. 6t

John & James S. Scott,

TAYLORS & HABIT MAKERS,

RETURN their sincere thanks to their friends and customers for the flattering encouragement received since their commencement of business in this place, elegance and punctuality in their line will be observed, to merit their future patronage. They also beg leave to observe to those that are in arrears, particularly those whose accounts are of long standing, that a settlement is now indispensably necessary, as in future no person will conceive themselves entitled to credit, except those who are, or may hereafter become constant and punctual customers. All persons having accounts against them, are requested to send them in for settlement.

N. B. Travellers will find it to their advantage to call on them, as they will be answerable for all disappointments.

May 12. 3t

NOTICE.

THE Subscriber is impowered to settle all the concerns of the Partnership of ROBERT PATTON and CHARLES R. SCOTT, which expired on the first of January last; also those of FORD, PATTON, & CO.—Therefore requests all persons indebted to either concern, to make payment by the first of May next; as after that time, the necessary steps will be taken for the recovery of the same, without respect to persons:—All those having demands are desired to render their accounts for settlement to

ROBERT PATTON.

Who has on hand a neat Assortment of

GOODS,

Suitable for the approaching season, which he will sell by the trunk or package, on a liberal credit.—Any person inclined to purchase the whole stock, will find his terms particularly advantageous, as he would prefer disposing of them in that manner.

HE HAS ALSO FOR SALE, ON A LIBERAL CREDIT,

A valuable Mill and Tract of Land,

The Mill is situated on Broad Run, in Prince-William County, below the Manufacturing Mill of Mr. John Love. The Mill-house is two stories high, has two pair of stones in it, and good bolting cloths for country work. It could at a very small expence be converted into a Manufacturing Mill, as the house is calculated for that purpose, and the situation a very favorable one. Adjoining the Mill is a tract of near 300 acres of tolerable good land, which h would dispose of either with or without the Mill.

April 5.

Ricketts & Newton,

Have received and for sale,

Salmon, Mackrel, Herrings, Shad, Beef, & Pork, } in barrels.

Harness, Skirting, Bridle, Carriage, and Soal } Leather.

Calf Skins and Boot Legs, a large assortment of Shoes, and a few bales of Humhums.

May 1.

ANNA GRAY,

FROM BALTIMORE,

BEGS leave to renew her respects to the Ladies of Alexandria and its vicinity, and to inform them that she has recommenced business in the

MILLINERY LINE,

in Prince street a few doors west of Fairfax street where she will be happy to receive their commands

By the first Spring vessels to Baltimore, she will be supplied with an assortment of every thing new and fashionable, and has now on hand, a pleasing variety of Bonnets, Hats Caps, &c. &c.

May 1.

TO HIRE,

An active, strong Negro Wench,

between 17 and 28 years of age.——Apply to the Printer.

ALEXANDRIA:
Printed every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday,
BY
HENRY GIRD, Jun.